

Diversification

As social and economic factors converge to move tobacco from center stage, KDA is in the forefront of efforts to develop successful enterprises that will boost 21st century farm livelihoods.

The **Kentucky Agricultural Development Board**, with the Commissioner as vice chair, distributes a percentage of annual revenues from the 1998 Master Tobacco Settlement to fund grant proposals to diversify Kentucky agriculture.

The Kentucky General Assembly recognizes that, even in times of declining state revenues, the budget for this agricultural effort must be protected because its success is critical to all Kentuckians. One in four Kentuckians makes his or her living from agriculture or in an ag-related business, and farm products are necessities in everyone's lives.

Stormy weather continues for some livestock breeds, but the market segment led the Kentucky farm economy during calendar 2002 and represents a primary hope for the post-tobacco era.



The board assesses grant applications from all over the state, and funds the best proposals to develop new crops, new means of production, new processing facilities or new markets.

Goats

The meat **goat** industry in Kentucky is thriving in response to demand from Kentucky's growing ethnic population.

KDA has helped producers get into the meat goat business. Last year Kentucky held its first **Tel-O-Auction** for goats, a method previously successful for selling sheep.

During such an auction, buyers bid on animals by phone, then farmers deliver them to the stockyard or collection facility.

The buyers have plenty of time to arrange trucking and delivery, and only have to make the trip if they have purchased a group of animals. Many of the auctions have included both goats and sheep.

In seven Tel-O-Auctions over a one-year period, KDA has helped market 1,364 head of goats and 751 head of sheep.

There are now Tel-O-Auction delivery locations in Paris, Irvington, Lebanon and Glasgow. Regular graded sales also take place in Marion, Bowling Green and Paintsville.



Beef cattle

High consumer demand, short supply, and a ban on Canadian beef prompted by an animal-health issue in Alberta in May 2003 combined to propel this year's beef prices into record territory.

The Department is helping cattle producers capitalize on the trend.

KDA has promoted **CPH (Certified Pre-Conditioned for Health) sales** that allow small cattle producers to market